

Application No.: 10/712361

Case No.: 59387US002

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1.-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 1~~ A method of making a crosslinked polymer comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a highly fluorinated fluoropolymer comprising pendent groups which include a group according to the formula -SO₂X, where X is F, Cl, Br, OH or O-M⁺, where M⁺ is a monovalent cation;
- b) forming said fluoropolymer into a membrane; and
- c) exposing said fluoropolymer to electron beam radiation so as to result in the formation of crosslinks;

wherein step c) b) comprises imbibing said fluoropolymer into a porous supporting matrix.

19. (Original) The method according to claim 18 wherein said porous supporting matrix is a porous polytetrafluoroethylene web.

20.-38. (Canceled)